

Commercialization Pilot Program. Senator KERRY and I created this program in 108th Congress to encourage the award of contracts to SBIR firms. The bill also includes a provision to reauthorize and increase funding to the Federal and State Partnership, FAST, program which would allow each state—including Maine—to receive funding in the form of a grant to make available an array of services in support of the SBIR program.

Now, more than ever, we in Congress must do everything within our power to help small businesses drive the recovery of our economy. It is imperative that we reauthorize the SBIR and STTR programs, particularly before the program terminates at the end of this fiscal year—fewer than 2 months away. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass this vital measure in the full Senate, and then negotiating with the House Small Business Committee, so that the President can sign this package into law.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 629—HONORING THE LIFE OF, AND EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE ON THE PASSING OF, BRONISLAW GEREMEK

Mr. LUGAR (for himself and Mr. BIDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 629

Whereas Bronislaw Geremek was born on March 6, 1932, in Warsaw, Poland;

Whereas Bronislaw Geremek led the democratic movement in Poland in the 1970s, with his moral clarity and perseverance;

Whereas Bronislaw Geremek was spirited out of the Warsaw Ghetto at the age of 7 and survived the Second World War in hiding from the Nazis;

Whereas Bronislaw Geremek was educated at the Faculty of History at the University of Warsaw and the École Pratique des Hautes Études in Paris and the Polish Academy of Sciences;

Whereas Bronislaw Geremek was a distinguished professor of history and received honorary degrees from University of Bologna, Utrecht University, the Sorbonne, Columbia University, and Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland;

Whereas Bronislaw Geremek was a member of the Academia Europea, the PEN Club, and the Société Européenne de Culture and served as a visiting scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars of the Smithsonian Institution;

Whereas Bronislaw Geremek joined the Gdansk workers' protest movement and became one of the leaders of the independent trade union "Solidarity" and chaired the Program Commission of the First National Convention of Solidarity in 1981;

Whereas, in December 1981, Bronislaw Geremek was detained for his involvement with Solidarity following the imposition of martial law in Poland;

Whereas, in his capacity as leader of the Commission for Political Reforms of the Civic Committee, Bronislaw Geremek worked to ensure a peaceful transition to democracy in Poland;

Whereas Bronislaw Geremek was a founder of the Democratic Union, a member of the Sejm, the lower house of parliament in Poland, and chairman of the Political Council of the Freedom Union from 1989 to 2001;

Whereas Bronislaw Geremek was the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Poland from 1997 to 2000 and was a courageous advocate for democracy and human rights;

Whereas, in March 1999, Bronislaw Geremek led efforts of the Government of Poland to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, saying that "Poland returns to where she has always belonged: the free world";

Whereas, in 2001, Bronislaw Geremek was elected to the European Parliament, where he was a member of the Alliance of Liberal and Democrats for Europe;

Whereas Bronislaw Geremek was a member of the Global Leadership Foundation;

Whereas Bronislaw Geremek was a recipient of the Order of the White Eagle, Poland's most prestigious decoration;

Whereas, through his valiant and persistent efforts, Bronislaw Geremek helped consolidate freedom in Eastern Europe and open the door to strong relations with the United States and the West;

Whereas the bravery of Bronislaw Geremek gave hope to those around the world in their struggles with oppression and tyranny; and

Whereas Bronislaw Geremek made an invaluable contribution to his community, to Poland, and the world: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life and accomplishments of Bronislaw Geremek and expresses its condolences on his passing; and

(2) requests that the Secretary transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of the deceased and to the Ambassador of Poland to the United States.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to offer a resolution honoring the life of Bronislaw Geremek and expressing the condolences of the Senate on his death. I am pleased that Senator BIDEN has agreed to cosponsor this important resolution.

Minister Geremek was a freedom fighter and a former Foreign Minister of Poland. He began his fight for freedom at age seven when he escaped the Warsaw Ghetto and successfully hid from the Nazis through the end of World War II.

Minister Geremek went on to become a professor of history and received honorary degrees from such prestigious institutions as the Sorbonne and Columbia University. In the 1970s, he joined the Gdansk workers' protest movement in Soviet-controlled Poland. With unwavering conviction, he became a leader of the independent trade union "Solidarity" and helped usher in a new era that led to the fall of the Soviet Union. His efforts gave hope to many across Eastern Europe and around the world struggling against tyranny and oppression. While he guided his nation towards democracy in Eastern Europe, the political, social, and economic ramifications of his efforts were felt across the world.

On July 13, 2008, this statesman who helped vanquish communism in Europe unexpectedly passed away. His life's work gave millions of people the freedom to choose their government, their economy, and their livelihood. For his

sacrifices to Poland, Europe, and the world, he deserves the honor and respect of the United States Senate and our Nation. I ask for the support of my colleagues in passing this important resolution celebrating the life of Bronislaw Geremek.

SENATE RESOLUTION 630—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF CONNECTING FOSTER YOUTH TO THE WORKFORCE THROUGH INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS, AND ENCOURAGING EMPLOYERS TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT OF FORMER FOSTER YOUTH.

Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. BOXER, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

S. RES. 630

Whereas, on any given day, there are more than 500,000 youth in foster care in the United States;

Whereas an estimated 26,000 of these youth are discharged from the foster care system or "age out" with few or no resources to start their own lives;

Whereas the people of the United States have a sincere appreciation for the circumstances that place children in foster care;

Whereas foster youth possess unique qualities and skills that make them ideal candidates for employment, but compared to youth nationally and youth from low-income families, they are less likely to be employed or employed regularly;

Whereas, when afforded comprehensive support, this resilient population excels in the job market;

Whereas, within 18 months after leaving foster care, 25 percent of foster youth become homeless, and former foster youth comprise more than a quarter of the United States homeless population;

Whereas, without positive intervention, youth who age out of foster care often have bouts of homelessness, criminal activity, and incarceration;

Whereas addressing job readiness early in the transition to adulthood is critical to shaping the future trajectories of these youth; and

Whereas youth who begin connecting to the workforce prior to discharge from foster care maintain the highest probability of employment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance of connecting foster youth to the workforce through internship programs, such as the Orphan Foundation of America's InternAmerica program and other programs, that provide to foster youth the foundation upon which to build their careers and to be successful members of the workforce; and

(2) encourages employers of all sectors and Federal, State, and local governmental agencies to increase employment of the young men and women who have been discharged from foster care in the United States.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, today I am pleased to introduce a resolution that recognizes the importance of connecting foster youth to internship and employment opportunities. I thank Congressmen CARDOZA, McDERMOTT, and FATTAH for raising this important